

**CHARLES TAYLOR MASTER
MECHANIC'S AWARD**

**Fairbanks Flight Standards District
Office Honoree 1997**

LOUIS THEODORE KEGLER



KEGLER, LOUIS THEODORE

(Ted) Ted was born in Chicago in 1928 and was raised in Schulsburg, Wisconsin.

His adventurous mother introduced him to aviation at the age of 4, with a ride in a Travel Air aircraft at a Wisconsin county fair. His mother moved the family to Washington State in 1943, when Ted was 15.

By 1946, Ted graduated from Vancouver Technical School and received training for work at the Portland Air Base and at Evergreen Airport. He continued his education at the Oregon Institute of Technology and went to work for Northwest Airlines, which only lasted a short time.

Instilled with his mother's spirit for adventure, Ted loaded the saddlebags of his Harley Davidson with his mechanics tools and headed to Sacramento. In

California, he converted Stearmans to crop-dusters by installing Pratt & Whitney 985 motors and crop dusting hoppers in the front seats.

Ted began a stint in the U. S. Army Corps in 1947, which took him from California to basic training in Mississippi. Following airframe and engine courses, he became a C-54 Specialist at Ladd Field, now Fort Wainwright, Alaska. While stationed at Ladd, Ted served on the crew of the B-29 aircraft.

Following his honorable discharge from the U. S. Army Air Corps in 1950, Ted remained an integral part of Alaska aviation. Ted was not content to simply work on airplanes, so he earned his private pilot certificate and flew a variety of aircraft. Ted could be found working odd jobs at Phillips Field area for several companies, including Wien Airlines.

Ted married Mary Ann Karsner in 1954. Their family included two sons and a daughter. Sadly, after 29 years of marriage, Mary Ann passed away.

In 1956, Ted was hired by Alaska Airlines and received his A&P certificate the next year. His career at Alaska Airlines included all of the Douglas and Convair propliners, starting with the DC-3. It continued through the entire line of Boeing jets in Alaska's skies, to the MD-80.

Ted and his wife, Ruiz Anne, have been married since 1992. He has continued his education and recently received a Bachelors Degree in Aviation Technology, from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.